

Message Text

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SUBJECT: LETTERS FROM SENATOR BYRD TO PRESIDENT SUAREZ
AND TO VICE PRESIDENT GUTIERREZ MELLADO

1. PROVIDED BELOW ARE TEXTS OF LETTERS FROM SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD (D-W. VA.), SENATE MAJORITY LEADER, WHICH EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO TRANSMIT TO PRESIDENT SUAREZ AND TO FIRST VICE PRESIDENT AND DEFENSE MINISTER GUTIERREZ MELLADO. ORIGINAL SIGNED LETTERS FROM SENATOR BYRD FOLLOW BY POUCH.

2. LETTER TO PRESIDENT SUAREZ: JULY 11, 1978

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

FRIENDS OF SPAIN EVERYWHERE, AND ESPECIALLY THOSE IN THE UNITED STATES, HAVE BEEN HEARTENED AND GIVEN RENEWED FAITH IN THE STRENGTH OF DEMOCRATIC IDEAS BY WHAT WE HAVE SEEN HAPPENING IN YOUR ANCIENT, AND YET YOUNG, COUNTRY. I WENT TO MADRID TO DEMONSTRATE THE SOLIDARITY OF SUPPORT OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FOR THE SPANISH PEOPLE DURING THESE TRULY
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HISTORIC EVENTS AND ALSO TO GAIN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF YOUR HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS.

WHAT I TOOK AWAY WITH ME, FROM MY CONVERSATION WITH YOU, WAS AN IMPRESSION THAT SPAIN TODAY IS REMARKABLY FORTUNATE IN PRECISELY THE WAY THAT MY OWN COUNTRY AT ITS BIRTH WAS ALSO FORTUNATE. YOU HAVE, AS WE HAD, A YOUNGER GENERATION

OF BRILLIANT, INSPIRED LEADERS WHOSE VISION IS CREATING
A NEW DEMOCRACY AND WHOSE WORK WILL CERTAINLY ENDURE FOR
GENERATIONS TO COME.

I KNOW I CAN SPEAK FOR MY COLLEAGUES IN THE UNITED STATES
SENATE, AS WELL AS FOR MYSELF, WHEN I ASK YOU TO CONVEY
MOST RESPECTFULLY TO KING JUAN CARLOS THE SENSE OF PRO-
FOUND SATISFACTION WE ALL SHARE WITH WHAT HAS BEEN
ACHIEVED IN SPAIN AND OUR BEST WISHES FOR SUCCESS IN THE
GREAT ENDEAVORS WHICH STILL LIE AHEAD.

MR. PRESIDENT, I EARNESTLY HOPE THAT YOU AND ALL THE
COURAGEOUS AND DEDICATED MEMBERS OF THE SPANISH PARLIAMENT
WHO ARE LABORING IN THE INTERESTS OF BUILDING A FIRM
FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY IN SPAIN WILL DERIVE SOME MEASURE
OF STRENGTH FROM KNOWING THAT YOUR FRIENDS IN THE UNITED
STATES CONGRESS ARE FOLLOWING YOUR WORK WITH ADMIRATION
AND WITH GRATITUDE.

SINCERELY YOURS,
ROBERT C. BYRD
MAJORITY LEADER

HIS EXCELLENCY
ADOLFO SUAREZ
PRESIDENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN
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MADRID, SPAIN

3. LETTER TO FIRST VICE PRESIDENT AND DEFENSE MINISTER
GUTIERREZ MELLADO: JULY 11, 1978

DEAR MR. VICE PRESIDENT:

IT WAS A GREAT PERSONAL PLEASURE FOR ME TO EXCHANGE VIEWS
WITH YOU IN MADRID. YOUR DEVOTION TO THE BEST INTERESTS
OF SPAIN WAS EVIDENT IN ALL YOU SAID. YOUR FIRM ATTACH-
MENT TO CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES WAS
ALSO APPARENT. THAT SENTIMENT IS CERTAINLY RECIPROCATED
BY ME, AND AS I RETURN TO MY DUTIES IN WASHINGTON, I TAKE
WITH ME A NEW APPRECIATION OF OUR MUTUAL OBLIGATIONS AND
RESPONSIBILITIES.

YOU HAVE, MR. VICE PRESIDENT, MY GREAT RESPECT FOR YOUR
COURAGE AND ABILITY IN CARRYING OUT THE HEAVY TASK WHICH
HAS BEEN LAID UPON YOU.

SINCERELY YOURS,
ROBERT C. BYRD

MAJORITY LEADER

HIS EXCELLENCY

LIEUTENANT GENERAL MANUEL GUTIERREZ MELLADO

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN AND

MINISTER OF DEFENSE

MADRID, SPAIN CHRISTOPHER

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